is quoted and the rest cut oft by ' *&.c*' 1 he probable explanation (though it cannot be proved definitely) is that when a 'long-tailed tide ' is accurately transcribed m the *Register,* then the entry was made from a *printed copy* Thus, on the one hand, Shakespeare's *Merchant of Vemce* was entered on ryth July, 1598, as * a booke ot the Marchaunt of Venyce or otherwise called the Jewe of Venyce,' but on the title-page reads * The most excellent Historic of the Merchart of Venice With the extreame cruelties of Shylocke the lewe towards the sayd Merchant, in cutting a mst pound of his flesh and the obtaining of Portia by the choyse of three chests As it hath beene dmers times acted by the Lord Chamberlame his Seruants Written by William Shakespeare ' On the other hand the *Firste part of the Contention* is entered as ' the firste parte of the Contention of the twoo famous houses of York and Lancaster with the deathe of the good Duke Humfrej' and the banishement and Deathe of the Duke of Suffolk and the tragicall ende of the prowd Cardmall of Winchester with the notable rebellion of lack Cade and the Duke of Yorkes fErste ckjme vnto the Crowne,' which is word for word the same as the title-page except that the *Register* reads ' of the twoo' for * betwixt the twoo *

(4) *Blocking entry* Blocking entries used to prevent the publica-tion of a manuscript against the owner's wishes are usually difficult to establish, because when there is a wide interval between the date of entry and of the first kno-wn edition it may be due to the fact that no copy of an earlier issue has survived

A probable instance of a blocking entry is Thomas Campion's *Observations in the arte of Enghshe poesie,* entered on I2th October, 1591 The earliest known edition is that of 1602, which evoked a reply in Daniel's *Defence of Ryme* (1603) On internal evidence the *Observations* was more likely to have been written in 1591, when the use of ckssical metres in English verse was being widely discussed, but the 1602 edition bears every sign of being the first it is, moreover, dedicated to the Lord Buckhurst as Lord High Treasurer, an office which in 1591 was held by Lord Burleigh

Another instance is Sir Philip Sidney's *The defence of foesie,* which was entered on 29th November, 1594 *Astrophel and Stella* had been

published without the consent of the family m 1591, and it was apparently to prevent another unauthorized publication that Ponsonby (who was the authorized printer of Sidney's works) entered *The defence*. Some months kter (i2th April, 1595) Olney entered and printed another version, *An apologie for poetry*>, but Ponsonby naturally complained, the entry was cancelled, and the note added, * This belongeth to master ponsonby by a former entrance And an agrement is made between them whereby Master Ponsonby is to enioy the copie according to the former entrance ' Ponsonby's edition is dated 1595

(5) *Books entered before they were written* The evidence for this practice is simply cold chronology On 2$th January, I59i> Captain